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## BOOK REVIEWS.

COMMENTARIES ON THE LAWS OF ENGLAND. By Sir William Blackstone, Kt. Edited by Carey Jones. Volumes I and II. Pp. 2770. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Co. 1915.

Whatever tendency may have appeared in the modern development of legal education to exclude them from regular curricula of instruction, the fact still remains that Blackstone's Commentaries continue to be the great beacon light of the English Common Law. Designed and prepared originally as a "general and comprehensive plan of the Laws of England," they still fulfill just that function and provide for the pilgrim who is about to start upon his journey in search of an understanding of the law a guiding star which never fails, but shines brighter and with greater power at each succeeding stage. Explained, enlarged and adapted to the changes in the law by edition after edition both in England and America, they are today, as ever, the ground work upon which the student begins to build. For this reason, if for no other, a new edition at this time is most welcome.

But it is not the Commentaries alone which make this edition by Professor Jones particularly valuable. While the text of the original is probably as faithfully reproduced here as in any American edition, having been taken without change from that prepared by the late William A. Hammond, former Dean of the St. Louis Law School, and published in 1890, the particular significance of this work is that the best of the justly famous Hammond monographic notes are reprinted, together with many other comprehensive notes by the editor, and extracts from standard legal works. In this way the two volumes are illuminating in an exhaustive way both for ready reference and authoritative information. The Hammond notes need no explanation. All those of a controversial character, which served their purpose in their author's edition of Blackstone, have been wisely omitted by Professor Jones, who rightly feels that no longer does Blackstone need to be vindicated. On the other hand, all those which are explanatory in any degree, and which in fact made the Hammond Edition of Blackstone of such great practical value, have been preserved. These have been supplemented by copious extracts from the works of such writers as Stephen, Holland, Pollock, Dicey, Maitland, Williams, Minor, Ames, Langdell, Thayer, Wigmore and a host of others. In addition to these, the many notes by the editor and his colleagues in the School of Jurisprudence of the University of California, illustrate in able manner important modern modifications or innovations in the Common Law. By this method, Professor Jones has produced a work which should be destined to become of great material assistance to the student of the law and of vital interest to the active practitioner.

The mechanical features of the edition are to be commended. Section heads are printed in black-face type and the paragraph arrangements are carefully planned for ready reference and comprehension. A complete index adds greatly to the practical value of the work. All of Blackstone's original outlines and analyses are retained. All together, this edition cannot be praised too highly.

L. B. S.  
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